



The NUNES Report

Congressman Nunes Supports Legislation to Help Veterans

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In May, a personally-owned computer was stolen from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs employee. Unfortunately, the data for 26.5 million veterans – every military veteran discharged since 1975 – was stored on that computer. The stolen files contained information that included names, birth dates, and social security numbers. While the laptop has since been recovered, this information breach could have allowed identity thieves to obtain credit information and apply for credit cards.

In response to this problem, Congressman Nunes joined his colleagues in co-sponsoring H.R. 5520, the Veterans Identity Protection Act. This legislation will set up an independent Office for Veterans Identity Theft Claims to receive, process and pay claims to impacted Veterans. This accelerated claims process would take the place of Federal Tort Claims Act, which can take years and



Congressman Nunes listens as a Veteran discusses issues that impact his life

thousands of dollars to complete.

“This legislation will ensure that our veterans are buffered from any potential damages that may have resulted from this incident,” said Rep. Nunes. The Veterans Identity Protection Act is currently awaiting action before the House Judiciary Committee and quick action is expected on this vital piece of legislation.

Furthermore, Congressman Nunes recently sent a letter urging the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Appropriations Committee to support

President Bush’s recommendation of \$85 million for the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program for Veterans. This program provides funds to construct and maintain extended care facilities through a federal-state match. While the President requested \$85 million for 2007, the Congressman would encourage increases to enable California to accelerate work on these vital projects. He also requested that the grants cover both the construction of new homes and for improvements to existing extended care facilities.

Our Mission Statement

To ensure our constituents and all Americans live free and prosperous lives in a healthy and safe environment by serving, communicating, protecting and representing them in a professional and caring manner.

Nunes Co-sponsors Health Centers Renewal Act

Congressman Nunes became a co-sponsor of H.R. 5573, the Health Centers Renewal Act, which recently passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate. The legislation provides for the continuation of federal funding for community based health centers. Community health centers provide medical care to the uninsured, underserved and vulnerable populations.



“They are an integral component of our nation’s effort to ensure all Americans have access to affordable health care,” said Rep. Nunes.

In 2005, more than 13 million people received care at 3,745 health centers across the country. A 1998 study demonstrated that low-income Medicaid patients under the care of health centers had a 22% lower hospital utilization rate than those receiving care from other sources. Indeed, the efficiency of delivery of care in health centers and the importance of shifting primary medical care away from the costly hospital environment is essential in our efforts to reduce the cost of overall health care delivery.

This shift is also important in our efforts to promote preventative medicine and primary care among low-income Americans. Demonstrating the highly effective work of health centers, the Office of Management and Budget has rated the national health centers program as “performing” and “effective.” Congressman Nunes added, “The work of health centers must be promoted and financially supported by our government, and I fully support the efforts of President Bush to increase funding for this important program.”

Death Tax Compromise Passes House

On June 22nd, Rep. Nunes voted in favor of H.R. 5638, Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act. This bill would permanently eliminate the estate tax or “death tax” for 99.7 % of all Americans. Those who are still required to pay the estate tax would have much lower rates. This would provide some much needed clarity for small businesses and family farms in the San Joaquin Valley who have struggled for years with the cumbersome and job-killing death tax.

“I am pleased to see the House moving forward in the fight to end



Many family farms would have to be sold in order to pay the death tax that Rep Nunes is working to repeal

the death tax. While I would have preferred to see a full repeal, the compromise contained in H.R. 5638 is a good start,” said Rep. Nunes.

Under current law, the estate tax gradually declines until it is fully eliminated in 2010. However, in 2011, the tax returns in full force. In contrast,

H.R. 5638 would permanently reduce the estate tax on Americans beginning in 2010. The new rate would be 20% on all estates under \$25 million and 40% for estates over \$25 million. The exemption level would also be increased to \$5 million per person.

“With quick Senate action, family farms will be safe from the IRS in the unfortunate event of a death in the family. The Senate needs to act quickly in order to ensure that more people are not unfairly impacted by the death tax,” he added.

Quick Facts

Rep. Devin Nunes maintains two offices in the 21st Congressional District to serve the needs of his constituents. His main office is in Visalia at 113 N. Church St., Suite 208. The telephone number is 733-3861.

His Fresno County office is in Clovis at 264 Clovis Ave., Suite 206. The telephone number is 323-5235.

Nunes Defends Farmers Against Attacks from Extremists

Recently, several lawsuits were filed by extremist environmental groups against farmers, claiming that manure is a hazardous substance or pollutant. If these cases are successful, other farmers could be held liable under the “Superfund” law (CERCLA) and the “Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).”

Mr. Nunes believes that Congress must take action to clarify that it never intended to regulate manure in the same manner that toxic waste dumps and spills such as Love



Canal—the environmental disaster during the 1970’s in upstate New York—are regulated. Animal agriculture operations are already heavily regulated by local, state and federal authorities. They are also required to have

permits under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and many other laws.

“Efforts to equate farmers with hazardous polluters are irresponsible, inappropriate and a gross distortion of the intent of

Congress in adopting laws governing toxic waste,” said Congressman Nunes.

To rectify this situation, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 4341, which would simply exclude manure from the definition of “hazardous substance” or “pollutant or contaminant.”

Learn more about what Rep. Devin Nunes is doing by visiting his website at www.nunes.house.gov

Department of Interior Disappoints with Snowy Plover Ruling

Rep. Nunes was disappointed to hear that the Department of Interior has decided **not** to delist the Pacific Coastal population of the Western Snowy Plover. Furthermore, he was disappointed to learn that the Department renewed its finding that the Pacific Coast population is a “distinct population segment.” Rep. Nunes communicated with Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne to express his concerns directly.

“It appears that the Department based this decision not on the clear genetic data showing the coastal population to be identical to the interior plover population, but



rather on inconclusive “banding” data that is more than 13 years old,” said Rep. Nunes.

The Department’s preferred approach is to instead propose a special “4d” rule to address the conservation of the Pacific Coast population of the Western Snowy

Plover. The proposed special rule generally establishes breeding bird goals based on a county-by-county survey. Yet, the Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing setting a separate standard for Oceano Dunes, apart from the standards for San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara counties. Furthermore,

the standard proposed for Oceano Dunes is three times the current count. That standard is much greater than what is being required for other areas. In fact, that number is greater than the number of breeding birds being called for in the states of Oregon and Washington combined.

The separate standard for Oceano Dunes is simply not a balanced policy and unfairly targets recreational users of the dunes. The Dunes are a popular vacation area for San Joaquin Valley residents and this ruling will adversely impact the ability for folks to take part in many normal vacation activities.

Congressman Nunes Applauds 10th Anniversary of Welfare Reform

The 1996 welfare reform law made dramatic changes in the Federal-State welfare system designed to aid low-income American families. The law repealed the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, and with it the individual entitlement to cash welfare benefits for life. In its place, the 1996 legislation created a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant that provides fixed funding to States to operate programs designed to achieve five purposes:

(1) provide assistance to needy families; (2) end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families; (5) include individual time limits and work requirements intended to reinforce the new focus on work and independence for families needing assistance as part of broad reform efforts.

Since passage of the 1996 welfare reform law, welfare caseloads have dropped by more than 60 percent as nearly 8 million parents and children have left the welfare rolls. The share of adults on welfare who work has more than doubled and this increased work-rate has meant higher wages and earnings for welfare recipients. The 1996 welfare reform law and associated reforms also included numerous provisions designed to end waste, fraud and abuse in welfare programs—such as ending “disability” checks for drug addicts and alcoholics – resulting in billions of dollars in savings to taxpayers.

Recognizing these historic achievements, Congressman Nunes became an original co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 438 which expresses the sense of the Congress that continuation of the welfare reforms enacted 1996 should remain a priority.

“While the 1996 welfare reforms were sorely needed and have been successful in reducing the number of folks who are dependents of the state, the time to make meaningful reforms to other entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare is now,” said Rep. Nunes.

Success Dam Receives more Funding

Over two years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers determined that Success Dam needed to be replaced due to its composition and location near active earthquake fault lines. The Army Corps testing discovered the earthen dam failed to meet the necessary seismic standards and would need to be replaced. This process is estimated to take 5 years and cost more than \$200 million to complete. Until the project is completed, the lake level will have to be dramatically reduced.

“This project can not be ignored because it is too important to the safety and livelihood of folks in Tulare County,” said Rep. Nunes.

Recently, Congressman Nunes was able to secure \$25 million for this project in the 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which passed the House of Representatives earlier in the month and is now awaiting action in the Senate. Since initially becoming involved in the project, the Congressman



Lake Success Dam, above, will be replaced to meet seismic safety standards

has been able to secure a total of \$37 million includ-

ing this year’s funding for the new dam.